

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

AMERICAN PUBLIC KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DEMOCRATIC SPIN" AND THE TRUTH

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the President yesterday sternly warned Republicans against "squandering the surplus." Well, I presume that reference was to the first Federal budget surplus since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

I must say that the President and the liberal Democrats ought to know a lot about "squandering the surplus," since they have been squandering taxpayers' money year after year after year.

It is ironic that these very same people who believe that it is okay to lie to the American people would call anyone who advocates spending less than \$1.7 trillion surplus an "extremist," and they would feel qualified to lecture the U.S. about squandering money.

It is ironic that these very same people who have proposed billions and billions of dollars in new programs would have the audacity to lecture Republicans about squandering money.

It is ironic that these very same people who accuse Republicans of being mean-spirited for cutting their wasteful, counterproductive, bureaucratic programs now believe they should attempt to impart their wisdom about the evils of squandering money.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back any balance of my time, feeling certain that the American public know the difference between Democratic spin and the truth.

BAILOUT FOR RICH FAT CATS ON WALL STREET

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, check this out. A bunch of rich, fat cats on Wall Street, through their hedge fund, gambled \$100 billion on the Russian ruble with borrowed American money.

We can figure it out, they lost big time and the Fed had to bail them out saying if they did not, there could possibly be a depression in America.

Unbelievable, is it not? Think about it. Bailout for Russia, bailout for Japan, bailout for Mexico, bailout for rich fat cats gambling with our money, and now we are talking about an \$18 billion bailout for Brazil and Russia, who are dumping steel illegally in America destroying our economy.

Beam me up.

What is next? Foreign aid for China? I do not think Congress will wise up until Uncle Sam needs a bailout. I yield back whatever money is left.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is story time once again. Once upon a time, a girl named Little Red Riding Hood was traveling alone to a big white house in the woods. In her travels, she encountered a predator: A sly and vicious wolf.

And as this story tells us, the Wolf, smacking his lips, exclaimed, and I read, "What a plump little lass."

The Wolf, an expert on preying on women of all shapes and sizes, called out to her, "Would you like to have some pizza as I shut some things down?"

Well, Little Red Riding Hood, not knowing what she was getting into, and really liking pizza, agreed and proceeded to the big white house. It was there that the wolf did his dirty work.

Sadly, it was only for fear of the hunters that the Big Bad Wolf and his friends let Little Red Riding Hood go. They even tried to send her traveling to another den of wolves in the big city.

Today, we still have wolves in high places who use deception to cover their evil intentions. These predators who prey on young women without care for the consequences must be stopped.

DEMOCRATS WILL STAY UNTIL EDUCATION NEEDS ARE ADDRESSED

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that even though it is the 11th hour in these budget negotiations, the Republican leadership has still not agreed to the Democrat school modernization program.

Let me say how important that program is. In almost every school district around this country there is a need for modernization of schools, whether that means rewiring for computers or it means having to build a school addition or just repairing a roof. And we know that many of the school districts around the country simply do not have

the money or they cannot get bond, they cannot bond at a good interest rate to be able to do those kind of modernization programs.

Why are the Republicans insisting that this not be included in the final budget agreement? We have been here now for almost 2 years and they still insist that this education initiative is not necessary.

Let me tell my colleagues, it is necessary. Democrats will stay here as long as it takes to make sure that this is included in the budget before we go home, because we know that it is needed. Education is the future of this country, and kids are not going to be able to learn how to read or function properly if the school buildings are not up to snuff.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in these final days to focus our attention on education. We have asked that we spend one day focused on the future of our country, on education for our children, and that has yet to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I know in Michigan, in my State, we have been working in volunteer efforts to wire schools with business-labor community groups to bring technology so that our children are prepared for the future. But this is a partnership that every level of government, as well as the private sector, must be involved in if our children are going to be prepared.

In too many schools in my district there is more computer power in the average gas station than the average classroom, and that is just not good enough.

We have an opportunity in this budget at this time to make a commitment in partnership with our local communities, with the private sector, with our States, to make sure that our children have the resources and have the kinds of equipment that they need so they can be prepared for the jobs of the future.

THEY WERE WRONG

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the same people who are whining about a "do-nothing Congress" are the very same people who accuse the Republicans of being "extremist" for proposing to reform welfare.

They were wrong.

They are also the very same people who attacked Republicans for reforming Medicare and saving it from bankruptcy for another decade.

They were wrong.

They are also the very same people who said we could not balance the budget and cut taxes at the same time.

They were wrong.

They are the very same people who had 40 years, 40 years to do something about Social Security and did not manage to put away a single dime to save it.

They were really wrong.

They are the very same people who failed to reform the IRS, an agency that routinely trampled on the rights of American citizens. The Republican Congress showed them they were wrong again.

Just look at the record of our liberal accusers and consider their credibility.

SHAME ON THE REPUBLICANS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority says there are two reasons we cannot approve the President's program for local education, for teachers, for smaller class size and school improvements.

One, they say there is no time. Well, the President made the proposal in January. Since then, this Congress has worked 110 days here in Washington, D.C. Not bad for a \$137,000-a-year salary. But the average American, at a \$30,000-a-year salary, has worked 201 days, while these clowns have only worked 110. And they say there is no time to do the people's business.

Then they say there is no money. There is no money for kids, for education, for schools. Yet on the front page of the Washington Post, they document more than \$50 million stuffed in the DOD bill with no consideration, including a quarter of a million dollars for pharmacokinetics research. That is the study of the use of stay-alert chewing gum, which is manufactured in the hometown of one member of that committee. One quarter of one million dollars will be spent, but there is no money for teachers, no money for kids, no money for school.

Shame on the Republicans.

1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
SHOULD BE RESIDENCE OF
TRUTH, JUSTICE, HONOR, DIGNITY

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the New York Post reported last week, quote, "115 American men and women are in jail—forever marked as felons—for having committed perjury in Federal courts, and before grand juries."

Now, if any one of these felons had been resting in their air-conditioned jail cells last week watching C-SPAN on their color television sets, they would certainly be confused, but also gratified.

"Confused" to see so many Members debating whether perjury is something

that we still take seriously; "excited" to know so many Democrats have taken the side of the perjurers in saying that it is not.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if the prosecutors and judges who have already put 115 perjurers behind bars want to find another one, all they have to do is ask any Member of Congress for the street address of the wrongdoer's hideout. Better yet, crime fighters need only ask any student in America who might have read in their civics textbook that 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is supposed to be the residence of democracy and the American Way: Justice, honor, dignity, truth, and all the rest.

VOTE FOR EDUCATION

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, the battle lines have been drawn in the war for education. On the Democratic side we have a simple proposition. We need more teachers to create smaller classrooms. We need school modernization so that we can have computers in the classroom, Internet access, and have the most modern teaching facilities that money can buy.

We can do this within the context of a balanced budget. That is what the Democrats want to do: More teachers, modern classrooms.

Now, the Republicans have another notion. They want to give students vouchers to take money out of public schools and send it to private schools, even though nine out of ten Americans go to public schools.

Second, they say, well, there is too much administrative waste, so we have to block grant all of this. The fact is, only 2 percent of all the Federal education funds are for administration. The rest go into programs. But when they block grant the money and say we are going to block grant and put it all together, what happens is we cut education funds. I did some research, and my State would lose \$10 million. The battle lines are drawn. Vote for education.

PART-TIME PRESIDENT, FULL-TIME FUND-RAISER

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, it seems that our President has his priorities a little bit confused. What are we to make of the fact that we have a part-time President, but a full-time fund-raiser?

The Fund-raiser in Chief just completed his 100th fund-raiser this year, this one in New York City. One hundred fund-raisers, but only two Cabinet meetings. Just in case anyone heard that wrong, I will say it again. One hundred fund-raisers, but only two Cabinet meetings.

Ironically, the business conducted at the Cabinet meetings were both related, one to say "I did not" and the other one to say "I did." That is what I call a commitment to, as he says, "Doing the job the American people sent me here to do."

Of course, in between those two Cabinet meetings we had India and Pakistan test nuclear devices; we had a total failure to develop a National Missile Defense system, even though the U.S. Navy already has technology on Aegis cruisers; and, we heard that Saddam Hussein thumbed his nose at the U.N. and U.S. weapons inspectors time and time again.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need a part-time President or a full-time fund-raiser. We need some attention to the Nation's business.

□ 1030

EDUCATION

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as we are about to close this 105th Congress, there is one critically important job that remains yet to be done. Even though there are literally only hours left in this Congress, we have enough time to do it. That is to upgrade and improve the quality of our educational system.

Unfortunately, the Members who run this House are trying to escape from town without fulfilling that obligation. The President has presented us with a plan to reduce class sizes, to upgrade and modernize our facilities, and also to educate new teachers, all of which is critically important to the economy of America in the 21st century.

We have the responsibility and the opportunity to act before we leave town. We know that kids learn better in class sizes that are smaller. If have 35 kids in the class, not much learning goes on. If you have 18 children in that class, a lot of learning goes on. And that learning is going to be important to those children, to their families, to their communities and the country as we move into the 21st century. Let us be straight with the American people. Let us move forward with this education agenda. Let us get this job done before we leave this Congress.

PRIDE IN THIS CONGRESS

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what this Congress has done to provide tax relief for hard working American families. The \$500 per child tax cut will help people provide for their kids. Education savings accounts and the \$1500 Hope credit will help them pay for college. Roth IRAs and capital gains tax relief will help people